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# A Decree of the Priuie Coun- sell at vvestminster.

Anno. 1. 5. 5. 9. xx. October

## Articles agreed vppon by the Lordes

and other of the Quenes Maiesties pryuy Counsaile, for a reformation  
of their seruauntes in certayne abuses of apparell, thereby to geue exam-  
ple to al other Lordes, noble men and Gentlemen.



Every Lord and Mayster hauing seruauntes, shall furthwith cause a biewe to be taken of al his seruantes, attending about the Citie, and considre their degrees and habilities of luyng, how many may dispende and be assessed to the Subsidye at. xx. pound of yerely lyuelyhode, or at two hundred pound in goodes, and therebpon cause them to vnderstand what is lawefull for them to weare in their apparell, and take ordre to reforme it, in thys maner or such lyke.

First as many as haue any apparell vnlawefull for them to weare, and can withoute their losse leaue the same, to leaue it furthwith, and to be straghtly charged that they procure no newe.

Next that summe mete persons be assigned by the Mayster to take a certaine biewe of all the seruauntes presente apparell, beyng vnlawefull, and make a certaine boke thereof, and therebpon gyue commaundemente that noo newe be bought or woꝛne after the sayd biewe taken.

Therby these bookes shalbe deliuered eyther into the counting house, or to the gentlemen hushers, there to remaine, to thend that yf any shalbe empeched for wearyng of any vnlawefull apparell, that then the same myght be tryed whether it were newly prouyded sithens the biewe taken or no.

Item, order shalbe taken and charge gyuen by the Lordes and Maysters, that vpon this reformation the mallicious inuencion and frowarde nature of any seruauntes, shall not deuyse any newe fashion or sorte of apparell, that should be as sumptuous as the former, though not contrary to the wordes of the statute, thereby sekynge by fraud to auoyde the payne of the lawe, with which peruerse condition the wisdom of the Maysters muste mete, both to chaunge such lewde seruauntes, and to consozt such as wyll lyue in ordre and honest and cumly maner.

And because many Gentlemen and seruauntes haue at this present, summe by gistes, some otherwise, furred, embroidered, and other garmentes, or ornamentes, contrary to the lawes of the Realme. It is conuenient that euery person hauing such bryng not well hable to chaunge the same. But meanyng hereafter to obserue the lawe & not be empeached for hys default herein, shall deliuer a true certificate signed with his hand, of al such his apparell as is not laweful for his degree to the Lord Chamberlayne of the Quenes Maiesties household, if he meane to weare the same apparell in any the Quenes Maiesties Chambers, or to the comptynge house, if he meane to weare the same, wythin the gates of the Courte. So as for the time such persone as were their former vnlawefull apparell maye bee forborne and spared.

And it semeth not vnmete to refrayne the couetuous lewde condition of the Taylers, and hofers, that euery Lord and Mayster, eyther by hym selfe, or some his principall officers prescrybe to al maner of hys seruauntes, that none of them excheue wynnynge conuenye in any reasonable price for their garmentes, and specially for their hose, wherein a diuersitie would be had betwene them which be hable, and so assessed in Subsidy, either at. xx. pound yerely lyuelyhode, or two hundred pound in goodes, and all others that be not. And yet notwithstandinge that all thys trauayle is to be taken for reformation of the shamefull excesse of Apparell, as thoccase of dyuerse of pouertye, in others, of robberies and such lyke. Yet it is mete and conuenient that all Lordes seruauntes (specially in the Courte) shoulde go semely and cumly for the honoz of their Maister, which may be well done, wearyng the commodities of this Realme, and byngne measure in all shape and forme of apparell.

God saue the Quene.

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to the Quenes Maiestie.

Cum priuilegio Regie Maiestatis